AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated in the following amendments:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically retrieving and playing multimedia files, comprising:

a network access interface which provides access to a data network;

a processing module in a central site to collect information including an identifier of a first multimedia file, a first location of said first multimedia file and a first datum relating to a first schedule of the availability of said first multimedia file, wherein said processing module creates first categorization information relating to said first multimedia file;

wherein said processing module collects information including a second identifier of a second multimedia file, a second location of said second multimedia file and a second datum relating to ~~a second schedule of the availability of~~ at least one time when said second multimedia file is available for download, wherein said processing module creates second categorization information relating to said second multimedia file;

wherein said processing module, said first location, and said second location are situation within distinct domains within the data network;

a selection interface in communication with said processing module which provides for presentation of the returned information, and receives and processes a selection from a client computer for accessing ~~a selected multimedia file~~ at least the first multimedia file according to the first schedule of the availability of the first multimedia file and the second multimedia file according to the second schedule of the availability of the second multimedia file from the data network and compiles a download schedule; and

a file download device in communication with the selection interface which, based on the download schedule, automatically accesses said first multimedia file at said location through said network access interface and downloads the selected multimedia file.

2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the processing module in the central site receives a download schedule file from remote multimedia websites on a periodic basis.

3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, further comprising a receiver plug-in module on a client computer to request at least a portion of a program listing created by the processing module on the central site.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 3, wherein the program listing comprises a category file and at least a portion of a media guide.

5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein at least one of: the selection interface, and the file download device are configured as plugins in a web browser installed in the personal computer.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the selection interface includes at least one of:

a first selection for real time play of said first multimedia file which is downloaded; and

a second selection for storing in a memory said first multimedia file which is downloaded in memory.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein an interface is provided for restricting categories of multimedia files to be presented by the selection interface.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6 wherein the system includes a media player for playing said first multimedia file in real time.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of retrieving multimedia files over a data network from a remote site in connection with the data network, comprising

in a processing module in a central site:

collecting identity information and download availability information for a plurality of multimedia files in a plurality of multimedia websites, wherein said plurality of multimedia websites searched comprise at least two websites in distinct domains of the data network and wherein said availability information comprises at least one time when at least one of said plurality of multimedia files are available for download;

categorizing said plurality of multimedia files;

creating a listing containing said identity information and said download availability in formation;

in a client computer:

presenting an interactive interface which includes the listing and though which individual selections may be made for downloading at least one of the plurality of the multimedia files from at least one of the plurality of multimedia websites according to the listing of when the at least one of the plurality of the multimedia files is available;

receiving an input through the interactive interface selecting a particular number of the plurality of multimedia files from the listing;

compiling a download schedule based on the received input, wherein the schedule includes a description of the multimedia files selected, day and time for the download, and download information, including the domain; and

based on the input received through the interface, accessing and downloading over the data network, the selected multimedia files from the selected multimedia websites.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 further comprising at least one of:

storing the multimedia files in memory; and

playing the selected multimedia files.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 wherein only a predetermined number of multimedia files may be stored in memory.

13. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the multimedia files are retrieved according to a time schedule.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the data network is the Internet.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein any scheduling conflicts between the downloading of multimedia files are detected and the downloading is rescheduled as necessary to resolve conflicts.

17. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the listing is created based on topical categories.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the topical categories are amended based on the received inputs.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the listing is created and transmitted automatically on a periodic basis.

20. (Currently Amended) A system for automatically retrieving and playing multimedia files, comprising:

a network access interface which provides access to a data network;

a scheduler to search a plurality of distinct websites for a multimedia file, obtain a schedule of ~~availability of~~ times when said multimedia file is available for download, categorize said multimedia file and create a first list containing information about said multimedia file;

a selection interface in communication with said scheduler which provides for presentation of said first list to a user, and receives and processes user inputs for accessing multimedia files according to the schedule of times when said multimedia file is available for download from said website and compile a user download schedule; and

a file download device in communication with said selection interface which, based on said user download schedule, automatically accesses said selected multimedia file through said network access interface.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the download device:

determines whether any conflicts exist in the download schedule compiled by the selection interface;

automatically reschedules at least one download in response to a determination that a conflict exists in the download schedule; and

provides a notification that the download schedule has been changed.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising:

determining whether any conflicts exist in the download schedule compiled by the selection interface;

automatically rescheduling at least one download in response to a determination that a conflict exists in the download schedule; and

provides a notification that the download schedule has been changed.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the file download device:

determines whether any conflicts exist in the download schedule compiled by the selection interface;

automatically reschedules at least one download in response to a determination that a conflict exists in the download schedule; and

provides a notification that the download schedule has been changed.